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Special Edition

Shannon anticipates presidency

First lay president "visible" to students

by J. W. Sacco

My initial reaction upon seeing that we had no classes the tenth of September was that of carefree joy. However, there is more behind that weekend than just no classes on Friday.

"The Presidential Inauguration is a time for the institution to celebrate, pause, and look to the future," said an obviously happy Dr. Albert J. Shannon, his smile clearly visible through his thick beard.

"It's certainly a rite of passage from the status quo to the future for the students, faculty, board members and the Rensselaer community. And it's hope for the future," Dr. Shannon said.

The gala that will take place this weekend is unheard of in over 100 years of Saint Joseph's College history. And because of this, Dr. Shannon is hoping for a strong student turnout to the events.

" I want five, six, and maybe seven hundred students to be present at the ceremony," he said.

Being the first lay president of Saint Joseph's College may make this job more challenging for Dr. Shannon. He takes that challenge head on.

" I'm not going to turn Saint Joe's into a tech school or a public university," said Dr. Shannon, "I am going to let it grow."

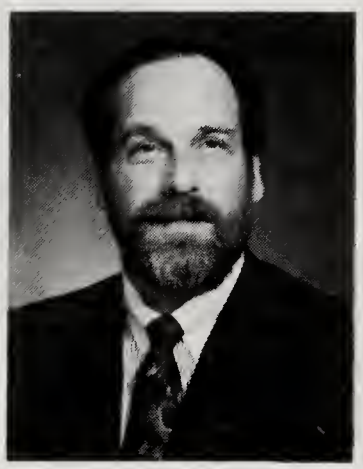
Ever since Dr. Shannon was appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs last year, he has been extremely visible to the students at many school sponsored gatherings. Many feared that when he became president he would not be as visible as before. Dr. Shannon begs to differ.

"When I became president you bought me full time," explains Dr. Shannon, " Look for me on the weekends, at night and at the cafe."

"It isn't fun enough not to deal with the students," continues Dr. Shannon. "The students are my source of energy."

"I will be at all of the games and maybe you can talk me into painting my face," Dr. Shannon said.

"When was the last time a president of this college welcomed the freshman football team or addressed the soccer team?" Dr. Shannon asked.



"The students are my source of energy."
---Dr. Shannon

Shannon explained part of his responsibilities as president of Saint Joseph's College. "Keep in mind that as president, I'm running a 15 million dollar corporation, 23 buildings, a small police force, seven small hotels, 16 athletic teams, four vice-presidents, a board of trustees, a T.V and a radio station and a newspaper," he said.

Dr. Shannon's two children attend Saint Joseph's College. Erica is a junior transferring from Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland. Sean is a freshman this year. Dr. Shannon is very happy about his children's decisions to attend this college.

"I think that this is a appropriate place for my kids," he said. " The tough part is that if something good happens to them, they may not get the credit."

"They were free to choose and I could not be happier with their choice. I love them more than anything on the planet," he said concerning his children.

Dr. Shannon's wife, M.J., will also play a strong part in his presidency. "For the first time in history, the president has a spouse. It's a unique opportunity to create a job that no-one has had. It's an unpaid job that is supportive for me and provides growth for her," explains Dr. Shannon.

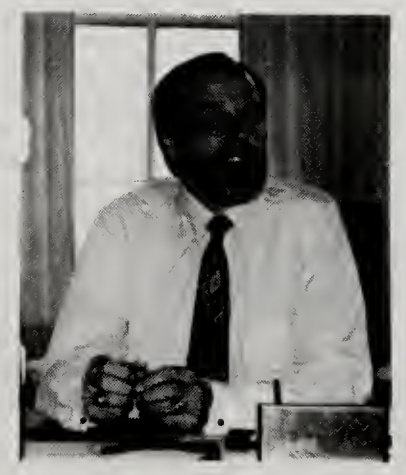
Dr. Shannon also feels very strongly about how the students should feel about being part of the Saint Joseph's College strongly knit academic community.

"Everybody gets service, dammit!" exclaims Dr. Shannon. "For 15 thousand dollars, you should expect some. You don't want recycled food or recycled knowledge. Fifteen thousand a year is some serious money," he acknowledges.

Dr. Shannon said the song that best describes his upcoming inauguration is, "Don Henley's *End on the Innocence.* It's a right of passage, a time a change that I experience every year with freshman coming in and seniors going out."

The topper of his inauguration will be the dance and Dr. Shannon looks forward to this.

"I picked all the music for the dance. It will be a good damn time," said Dr. Shannon.



SPECIAL EDITION

MJ Shannon: Skip's acting support

The following story is written in a "First Person" style. MJ Shannon is the wife of Dr. Albert J. hannon, fifteenth president of Saint Joseph's College. By MJ Shannon **as told to Candace McGroarty**

When it was first announced that Skip would be the next president of the college, I asked the Board of Trustees what they wanted me to do, since there was no one before me. There was no instruction book or precedence to follow. Bill Moriarity just told me to "go with my heart."

Right now, I'm just feeling my way. I'm very careful in what I do, because I am not a policy setter, but Skip's support system. I really don't like the term 'first lady', it makes me think of Hillary Clinton right away.

I'm involved in a lot of things around campus, and I'm enjoying getting to know the students. I told one freshman class, that I may not remember their names right away, but I will know all their names by the time they graduate. I really can't believe how many students I do know already.

Students are very important to a college. They are why the College is here. I want to be accessible and approachable to students. If students don't feel comfortable going to Skip with a question or problem, hopefully they'll feel they can come to me and I can act as a go-between. I can't promise anything, but I do have a direct line to the president.

I have been volunteering my time to a lot of different places around campus such as the alumni office, office of development, admissions, Campus Life, Campus Ministry. If anyone asks me for help, I'm there. When I see a need for help I show up.

one true passion has been the grotto. I'm out there a lot helping Fr. Rueve pull weeds and plant flowers. Over the summer I spent two to three hours a day out there. This fall I am going to plant more bulbs and perennials, so next spring there will more flowers lining the walkways.

This is my campus too, it's a part of my life. Sometimes you'll find me at dinners, and other campus functions, or you might find Skip and I walking through the dorms getting to know students. I think it's very important for students to know their administrators as people.

Yes, I had to give up friends, I job I loved, and other things when we moved here, but as a family we made the decision to move here. Skip and I have always backe

d each other 100%. We make compromises and we negotiate things together.

The key ingredient to any successful marriage is communication. You need to be open, and you need to listen to both hear and understand.

We have been married for 22 years, and I love him more everyday.

I have made some good friends since we came here, and a lot of good things have entered into my life. I'm very happy.

Dr. Albert Shannon and his wife MJ find time to realx at home.

Siblings still adjusting to SJC student life

by Jacquelyn M. Leonard

This year marks the beginning of a new era for Saint Joseph's College. There are several "firsts" associated with the inaguration of the first non-clergy president. Saint Joseph's College will have it's first "First Family" beginning this year.

MJ, Dr. Albert J. Shannon's wife, is a highly visible figure on campus. Erica and Sean are also very visible at Saint Joseph's College--as students.

Erica is a junior transfer from Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland. "My family moved out here and I was having a hard time adjusting to being 600 miles from home," she said. Therefore, she began looking at schools closer to her family. Saint Joes seemed a natural choice.

Sean, a freshman, chose the College because he spent time here as a high school senior. He took class here last year and the Rensselaer prom was held in the Halleck ballroom.

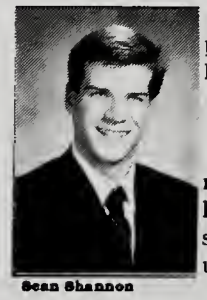
Erica Shannon

Both students are trying to maintain a "normal" life here. Neither student has experienced any favoritism because of their father's postition. "The professors and faculty are probably tougher on me than the other students," said Erica.

"If someone does something wrong, it's usually OK. If the president's kids do something wrong, it's all over," said Sean.

"I don't have any executinve power," said Sean. "But I don't have to make an appointment to see the president."

Erica and Sean have each experienced acceptance problems from the students on campus. "I'm not here to get them in trouble. Some students think that I am an RA or something. I'm just a student and my dad's the president." Erica said.



Sean Shannon

Erica and Sean agree that their relationship has grown stronger. "We used to be just brother and sister. Now we sometimes hang out together. We even go to each other for advice," Sean said.

Erica agrees. "Getting closer to my brother is something I've been working on," she said.

She continues, "We've always been very family oriented....My mom's like my best friend. And I'm so proud of my father." Erica claims to be her father's hardest critic. "As soon as he loses touch with the students, he shouldn't be president anymore," she said. The entire Shannon clan, including parents, brothers and sisters of the new president, are expected for the celebration. "Students should come out and show their support for just one day," the president's daughter said

One final note from Erica: "I loved him when I was seven....My father will understand. I love you, daddy."

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This Special Edition of STUFF was published in honor of the College's fifteenth president. Dr. Albert Shannon. STUFF congradulates the new president. We would also like to thank MJ Shannon and Father Dominic Gerlach for their help with this issue.

STUFF revisits past presidents

by Candace McGroarty

On Mar. 20, 1889 Saint Joseph's College was chartered, and two years later on Sept. 2, 1891, the first school year began. Since then, there have been 14 people previous to current president Dr. Albert "Skip" Shannon.

Rev. Augustine Seifert

The first and third president of the College was Rev. Augustine Seifert, C.PP.S. whose first term ended in 1899. Under Rev. Seifert, the student body began at 54 students, most from Fort Wayne.

In 1893, the College Band, Choir and Orchestra were formed. On May 9, 1893 a "special post office was established at the college and henceforth letters were to be addressed to Collegeville, Indiana." The first issue of the Saint Joseph's *Collegian* appeared in Nov. 1894.

On June 16, 1896 the first formal graduation ceremony took place with 12 in the graduating class, all of them semenarians. The most important event during Rev. Seifert's first term was the large addition to the Main College Building, which housed 200 students, a dining hall, chapel, study halls, locker rooms and washrooms. The enrollment of the college doubled in size to 120.

The Lourdes Grotto was built in the summer of 1898. It commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes, France.

In 1899, Rev. Seifert left Saint Joseph's in August to reorganize and supervise the curriculum at Saint Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio. He returned in 1902 to serve another 11 years as president.

Rev. Benedict Boebner

Rev. Benedict Boebner, C.PP.S., held the position of president from 1899-1902. Under Rev. Boebner, the college erected an enormous barn to house the dairy department of the college farm. This barn was supposedly the "biggest in the state of Indiana," and was torn down in 1953.

In the spring of 1902, intercollegiate sport were born when the baseball team played Saint Vincent College of Chicago, and Turner Verein, and acrobatic club was organized.

In Nov., 1902, Rev. Seifert returned for his second term as president. The new gymnasium was dedicated in 1905.

The year 1907 brought about the erection of Dwenger Hall which was built as an infirmary and to "accommodate visitors." The building was designed and work supervised by Rev. Seifert.

The chapel was dedicated on May 17, 1910, with a speech given by the governor of Indiana, Thomas Marshall, about the value of Catholic education. In 1913, Rev. Seifert resigned.

Rev. Hugh Lear

Rev. Hugh Lear C.PP.S., became the fourth president in 1913. One of his first accomplishments was curriculum reform, and revising the Catalog, which looked much like the present one. Work on the current Science Hall began in 1914.

Rev. Ignatius Wagner

The next president of the College, Rev. Ignatius Wagner, C.PP.S. took over in 1916 and his term ran until 1925. During World War I, the school was shut down for one month due the Spanish Influenza epidemic that "devastated U.S. army camps, and worldwide killed more than 20 million people."

In 1919, three bells were bought and installed in the chapel tower. In 1921, the chapel tower clock was purchased and installed as well as a new pipe organ in the chapel.

In 1925, the college became known as Saint Joseph's Preparatory Seminary, and no commercial or scientific students were admitted. This would continue until the fall of 1932.

Rev. Didacus Brackmann

In 1926, under the administration of Rev. Didacus Brackmann, the catalog stated that the name of the college would be restored as Saint Joseph's College, but it would still remain a preparatory seminary.

Rev. Joseph Kenkel

In 1927, Rev. Joseph Kenkel, C.PP.S., took over as the seventh president of the College. Rev. Kenkel led the College back to general admissions, and when the school year opened in the fall of 1927, 130 out of 290 students enrolled, were students from the community.

Rev. Kenkel's 1935 administration appealed to the Board of Trustees, that Saint Joseph's College become a four year college, but that it also loosen the discipline for non-seminary students, admit non-Catholic students, expand the curriculum, and provide individual rooms and more classroom space.

In 1936, the College became a four-year college, with a course of study to include liberal arts and sciences. It was also approved in 1938 that non-Catholic day students attend the college.

Other accomplishments under Rev. Kenkel included a new addition to the Science Building, which included accommodations for 50 students. This was the first instance of individual rooms in Saint Joseph's history. Graduation requirements were set to include one major and two minors.

Father Rufus Esser

In Jan., 1937, Rev. Kenkel announced that he would be taking a leave of absence till the fall semester and that Father Rufus Esser, C.PP.S. would take his place as President. In March, Father Esser suffered a breakdown and was unable to continue his duties, and in April was sent to Sacred Heart Sanatarium in Milwaukee for treatment and rest. Both Rev. Kenkel and Father Esser returned in September and resumed teaching positions.

Father Cyril Knue, C.PP.S. became president on May 27, 1937, and his term only lasted

Father Knue

until June of the following year.

On Nov. 7, 1937 the old Indian school having been newly remodeled was dedicated and named Drexel Hall after Mother Katherine Drexel who had furnished the money to buy the Indian School. Drexel Hall housed three priests, one brother and 57 students.

Also in 1937, came the appearance of four separate college publications including *STUFF*, the college newspaper, *Measure*, the literary journal, *Contact*, the alumni paper, and *Phase*, the yearbook.

Father Aloys Dirksen

Many changes and improvements were made under the leadership of Father Aloys Dirksen, C.PP.S., who served as President from 1938-1944. In 1939, women appeared in the Columbian Literary Society's dramas. These were girls from the Rensselaer C.Y.O. (Catholic Youth Organization).

The year 1940 brought about the erection of Seifert Hall, the Fieldhouse, Xavier Hall, and Merlini Hall. The next summer the first summer session at the college ran from June 8 to Aug. 1, 1942.

Rev. Henry Lucks

Rev. Henry Lucks, C.PP.S. became president of the College in 1944, and completed his term in 1948. It was in 1944 that the Chicago Bears chose Saint Joseph's College "as the training site to prepare for the All-Star game to be played in Chicago. They resided in Drexel Hall for three weeks, "and the College became the Bears' regular training camp for the next 30 years."

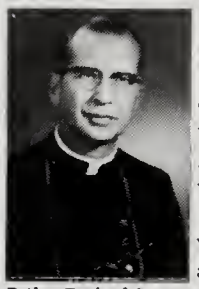
In 1945, the Trapp Family Singers, whose story was made famous by the musical "The Sound of Music," performed at Saint Joseph's College on Jan. 24. Their home in Salzburg, Austria was bought by the Society of the Precious Blood after the War, and is now headquarters of the C.PP.S. Teutonic Province.

In 1946, the library was expanded, and in 1947 construction was begun on Raliegh Hall. In 1948, nuns were in attendance at the college.

Father Alfred Zanolar

Due to illness, Father Lucks resigned in 1948 and Father Alfred Zanolar, C.PP.S, took his place until 1951. In1949, the first parent's day occurred along with the first homecoming parade.

Under the administration of Father Raphael Gross, C.PP.S. who served as president from 1951-1965, the Student Association was formed, Bennett and Noll were built and in 1956, the first women faculty appeared. The SJC radio station appeared in 1957 in Seifert Hall.


Father Raphael Gross

Halas and Gallagher were dedicated in 1958. In 1960, Aquinas Hall was first used to house students. On Sept. 13, 1962 the cornerstone was laid for Halleck Student Center, with former President Dwight D. Eisenhower present for the ceremony, in addition to Congressman Charles Halleck in whose honor the building was dedicated.

Father Charles Banet

Father Charles Banet, C.PP.S. became President of the College in 1965 and his term ended last spring after 28 years of service. For the first time the majority of the Board of Trustee's were laymen. He implemented the trend towards residential coeducation which resulted in the erection of Justin Hall for women. He ordered the study of the general education program which led to the nationally acclaimed Core Program.

An Honors Program came about in 1966, as well as the installation of the IBM 1130 system,

Continued on Page 4

SPECIAL EDITION

First inauguration filled with events

by Jonathan Bringewatt

Tomorrow marks a day that will begin a new tradition at Saint Joseph's College. Dr. Albert J. Shannon, better known as Skip, will be officially installed as the fifteenth president of the College. Dr. Shannon will be honored with an inauguration unlike any other in campus history.

The previous fourteen presidents, most recently Rev. Charles H. Banet, were unable to begin their presidencies with a similar inaugural celebration. Being members of the religious community, their job as president was looked upon as an assignment, similar to any other duty to be fulfilled. Therefore, an inauguration was not an appropriate event for a new president. Being a layman, Dr. Shannon will bring a different kind of tradition — a tradition that begins with festivities.

John Groppe, who co-chaired the Inauguration Steering Committee with Inge Erickson, commented that the inaugural events are intended as "a celebration of a new vision." That celebration will begin tonight and events continue all the way through Friday.

Tonight at 7 p.m., there will be a symposium in the Halleck Center Ballroom entitled "Transforming Community: Re-examining, Reinvesting in the Catholic Tradition." The symposium will include a panel of distinguished guests including Rev. Albert Di Ulio (President, Marquette University), Sr. Jeanne Knoerle (Chancellor, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College), Dr. John Nichols (Director of Core Program, SJC), and Rev. Robert Schreiter (Theologian, Chicago Theological Union). The symposium will be moderated by Bishop William E. McManus.

Groppe pointed out that "it's important at this time for Saint Joe's to get a vision of its relationship to Catholic tradition." This is of special concern considering the diverse student population. Therefore, both students and faculty are encouraged to attend tonight's symposium.

The events for Friday, Sept.10 begin at 9:45 a.m. with an academic procession from the Halleck Center to the Chapel. Liturgy will be given as an opportunity for the community to join together in worship.

At noon, a luncheon will be held in the Halleck Center Ballroom. The luncheon is open only by special invitation. This is the only event of the celebration that is limited to special invitation only.

The big moment of the day begins with another academic procession from the Halleck Center to the Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse. At 2 p.m., Dr. Shannon's inauguration as the fifteenth president of the College will proceed.

The installation ceremony will be attended by an impressive number of guests from 34 colleges and universities and several professional societies. In addition, there will be greetings from the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, and Governor of the State of Indiana, Evan Bayh. Furthermore, representatives from the college staff, students, faculty, parents, alumni and clergy will announce their best wishes to Dr. Shannon. The Mayor of Rensselaer, Steven A. Wood, will also be making a proclamation on behalf of the city.

Next, Dr. Shannon will give his inaugural address. He will discuss the subject of "Transforming Community." Following the ceremony, there will be a cookie and punch reception in the Library Grove.

Festivities continue at 5 p.m. with an all campus cookout at the Halleck Center Plaza. In addition to food, entertainment will also be provided. Al Brousard and Mona Ramp will be singing for everyone's enjoyment.

The real partying begins at 8 p.m. in the Halleck Center Ballroom where the Informal Inaugural Ball and Campus Celebration will be held. "Triple Play" is the featured band and includes SJC alumni Ben Likens and Eric Kurutz. The first 500 students in the door receive free t-shirts, according to Brian Studebaker, member of the Inaguration Steering Committee.

Dr. Shannon continues to encourage all members of the SJC community, including faculty, staff and students, to participate in the celebration events.

You don't want to "Skip" this!

An inaugural calender of events

Thursday, Sept. 9

7 p.m. Symposium "Transforming Community: Re-examining, Reinvestigating in the Catholic Tradition" in the Halleck Ballroom

Friday, Sept. 10

9:45 a.m. Mass in Chapel

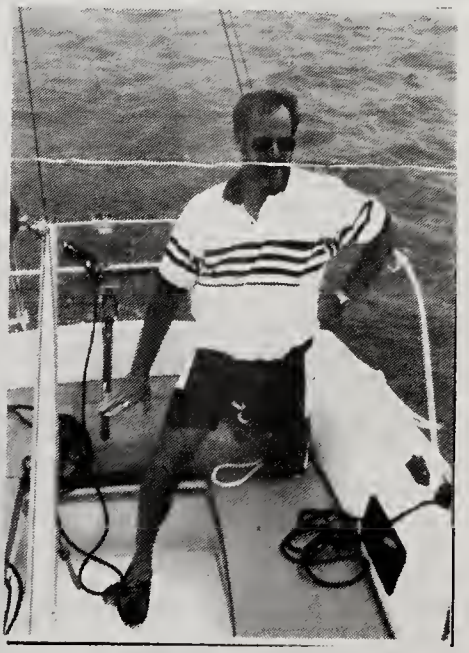
12 p.m. Luncheon by special invitation only

2 p.m. Inauguration Ceremony in the Fieldhouse

5 p.m. Campus-wide cook-out at Halleck Plaza

8 p.m. Informal dance in Halleck Ballroom

Dr. Albert Shannon takes the helm of Saint Joseph's beginning with his inauguration celebration. Will he steer a clear course for SJC?



Past presidents revisited...

Continued from page 3

which brought Saint Joseph's into the age of computers. In 1967 the President's Council voted to admit women residents on campus. In 1970 the new CORE program went into effect and replaced the former general education system. Also in 1970 the Little 500 became motorized replacing the hand pushed cars.

In 1972, Columbia Pictures began filming the motion picture "Brian's Song" at Saint Joseph's on Aug. 26-29.

In 1973 the Administration Building caught fire . In 1976 Lake Banet became a "full-fledged" recreation area available to students, faculty, and staff and their families. In 1977-1978, Core XI opened.

More recent accomplishments of the Banet administration include the offering of service grants, the remodeling of the chapel basement for use by the Communications and Psychology departments, the renovation of the library, and the Science Building facelift.